
P.O. Box 1270
Hot Springs, AR 71902
(501) 321-5202



605 W. Main
Russellville, AR 72801
(479) 964-7200

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 30, 2009

CONTACT: C.J. Norvell
(918) 567-2326 x. 114

National Forests Present Challenges for Turkey Hunters

As turkey hunters plot to close the distance on a big Tom this spring season, forest managers are urging caution, particularly in areas recently impacted by an ice storm. Turkey season officially begins with youth hunts in Arkansas and Oklahoma scheduled for April 4th and 5th.

“Turkey hunters know as well as anyone the dangers inherent in walking through a springtime forest,” said Greg Hatfield, Acting Ozark-St. Francis National Forests Supervisor. “We just want folks to remember that along with the usual pitfalls of stump holes, poison ivy, and critters like ticks, gnats and chiggers, this year it will really pay to look up and make sure you’re not setting up under a dangling limb.”

While most of the severe ice damage lies in the Ozark National Forest north of Interstate 40, smaller pockets of damage have been reported elsewhere south of I-40 and into areas of the Ouachita National Forest as well. In some areas, downed trees and limbs may make travel through the forest feel more like an obstacle course

“As always, pre-season scouting can go a long way in ensuring a successful hunt,” said Dick Rosemier, the Ouachita National Forest’s Deputy Forest Supervisor. “And from our viewpoint, a successful hunt is one where everyone comes home safely when the day is over.”

Turkey hunters must abide by all state hunting regulations. Copies of the hunting regulations can be obtained by visiting the local national forest Ranger District office or by going online at www.agfc.com or www.wildlifedepartment.com. To learn more about the national forests in Arkansas and Oklahoma log onto www.aokforests.com.

###